

REMARKS

The present application was filed on November 13, 2000. Claims 1-4 and 6-23 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 23 are proposed to be amended herein.

5 The independent claims have been amended as agreed in the aforementioned April 10, 2006 telephone interview. The dependent claims have been amended as needed to conform to the amended independent claims. Applicant and applicant's undersigned attorney thank the Examiner for his courtesy, patience, diligence and professionalism in conducting the interview. It is applicant's understanding that the
10 agreed-upon changes place all pending claims in condition for allowance.

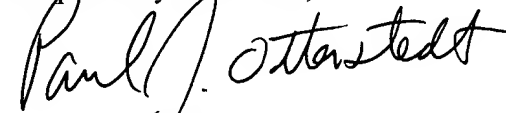
Conclusion

All of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further
15 suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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